



Minutes from the D/N PAC Meeting March 24, 2004

CPO Report:

COA meeting is scheduled May 16-20, 2004 in Anchorage, Alaska. Over 700 officers have registered for this meeting. Some Key features will be: Career Development Workshop, Transformation Town-Hall meeting, session on the Epidemic of Suicide among Adolescents, and Dietitian Category day

Reorganization of DCP continues. Stand-up of OCCO (Office of Commissioned Corps Operations) and OCCFM (Office of Commissioned Corps Force Management) has occurred. Vacancies in these agencies are open to Civil Service or Commissioned Corps personnel. The positions require that individuals have full understanding of Corps functions.

Some confusion has occurred regarding some TRICARE groups refusing to authorize physical examinations for active duty officers. This is inappropriate. Only physicians in DCP (LCDR Richard Leland or CDR Doss) have authorization to deny care to active duty PHS officers. If you should be denied care, please report this immediately to the Medical Affairs Branch at DCP. They will rectify the situation. Under the A-76 (outsourcing) ruling by OMB, processing of medical claims will be outsourced and processing of dental claims will be done by United Concordia.

1. CCRF: Of the nearly 6000 PHS officers, 1450 meet the new basic readiness standard, 923 lack completion of modules, 163 are delinquent in their 5-yr physicals. PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO CCRF REQUIREMENTS! It will not go away, but only increase in importance.

2. Special Pay: I'd like to establish a working group with the DoD Nutrition Council to revisit the issue of special pay for dietitians. There have been a number of changes at ADA since the inception of dietitian special pay and I want to know if these changes fall within the established criteria.

Out of 150 Army Dietitians, approximately 20 receive special pay.

Update your information for **APPLES** (your personal and professional information). Logon to the DCP website and find the section for updating APPLES.

COA Meeting and BMI Booth: So far, 18 dietitians have registered for the conference which will be in Anchorage, AK. We are asking these officers to sign up for a 2-hr stint in the BMI booth. Please let LCDR Samantha Maloney and CDR Juli Haws know what time you will be available for the booth. They have the details of this effort.

VADM Richard Carmona sends words of wisdom: **Complete your Modules and other requirements of CCRF!!!** OMB will hold us accountable for having a viable Readiness Force. We will need to have 50% of officers in CCRF by October 1, 2004.

CC Promotion Activities: Transformation process continues to dominate the news. CPOs are briefed the promotion boards on the use / interpretation / implementation of the new precepts.

Death of Rear Adm Joseph (late CPO of the Scientist Category) has been mourned. A temporary replacement has been named.

Subcommittee Reports:

CCRF:

CAPT Laura McNally sent congratulations to the 5 dietitians who have achieved Field Medical Readiness Badges (FMRB): CAPTs M. Welschenbach, G. Revere, J. Murphy, LCDRs K. Blasius and Cossi. LCDR Cossi also has been awarded the National Emergency Preparedness Award.

CAPT McNally gave a report indicating that only 63 dietitian officers are members of CCRF. Of the 19 who have not applied, 7 are senior officers who have indicated they will be retiring, the remaining 12 officers say they will 'get around to it' and plan to work toward the basic level.

There was a discussion about the need for those who signed up for clinical dietetics skills to meet the yearly requirement for 112 clinical practice hours. If dietitians feel their clinical skills are too rusty, they may want to consider signing up for another specialty such as Emergency Coordinator Augmentee. Another idea discussed is the possibility of allowing some CE training hours to count for the 112 hours. The D/N PAC can examine the possibility of allowing a certain ratio (or percent) of training hours to be in an approved clinic or hospital, while allowing a smaller percent in the form of CE training. The PAC also discussed the possibility of having on-line training programs or modules that could fill some of the clinical training hours. Another idea put forth was using the yearly COA "Category Day" to provide clinical training. ADA has established certification for certain skills such as weight management, and the group discussed the option of allowing training for such certifications to qualify for the yearly clinical hours. The group discussed the need for a variety of skills such as CNSD Versus general chronic disease skills

PAC members favored using a combination of clinical dietetics modules and serving time in a clinic. Look for further discussion on this topic.

CAPT McNally ended her discussion of CCRF by stating that information to be posted to the website will be discussed at the next CCRF Conference Call.

Recruitment/Mentoring:

CDR Hayes reported that there are now 85 RDs in the Commissioned Corps, including Carma Pauli, the first RD with USDA / FSIS. Another new officer is LTJG Blakeley Denkinger, RD, of NIH.

CDR Hayes also reported on initiatives to establish and manage MOUs for RDs. She is working on this issue, which needs legal approval.

CDR Hayes was scheduled to present the benefits of a career in the Commissioned Corps to approximately 70 dietetic interns in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. CDR Hayes is receiving called about the association recruiter program because such membership is a benefit for promotion to the 05-06 category.

CDR Hayes continues to work on an article for Today's Dietitian about RDs in the CC. She sent thanks to CDR Jean Makie, CAPT Robinson, LCDR Graydon Yatabe for their help with this effort.

Website Subcommittee

CDR Turpin thanked officers who sent pictures for the website, but wants to remind everyone to also submit signed permission forms for everyone in each picture submitted.

CDR Turpin called for information from each subcommittee to be included on the website, including:

- Basic information about the subcommittee
- Pictures
- Links

CDR Turpin continues to update the site, and is waiting on information on the current mission, RD of the Year, and individual sections such as IHS.

COA Conference:

CDR Blakeley thanked Juli and Samantha for developing such a comprehensive program for Category Day.

CAPT Blakeley called for volunteers to assist Therapists with their effort to assess BMIs for CC Officers.

The meeting was adjourned at 1600 EST

